



VIRGINIA: A SCHEDULED RETREAT MEETING OF THE SURRY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD IN THE BOARDWALK CONFERENCE ROOM AT SMITHFIELD STATION ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024, AT 5 PM.

PRESENT: SUPERVISOR ROBERT ELLIOTT, JR.
SUPERVISOR BREYON PIERCE
SUPERVISOR WILLIAM (TIM) CALHOUN
SUPERVISOR AMY DREWRY
SUPERVISOR WALTER HARDY

ABSENT:

ALSO

PRESENT: MS. LOLA PERKINS, COUNTY ATTORNEY
MS. MELISSA ROLLINS, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MR. DAVID HARRISON, DEPUTY COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MS. DOREATHA PIERCE, COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
MR. CHARLES HARTGROVE, VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elliott. Ms. Rollins introduced the speaker for the Board of Supervisors Retreat, who was Mr. Charles Hartgrove of the Virginia Institute of Government.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Hartgrove provided a presentation on the following discussion items:

- Administration, Facilities, and Budget
- Communications
- Economic and Workforce Development
- Housing
- Parks and Recreation

(A copy of Mrs. Rollins's report is attached as an integral component of these minutes.)

ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business before the Board, Supervisor Calhoun made a motion that the Board continue their meeting to February 8, 2024, at 6 p.m. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Pierce. All present voted affirmatively. **(Approved)***

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.



Surry County Board of Supervisors - Strategic Planning Retreat

The Surry County Board of Supervisors, who assumed office on January 1, 2024, held its first goal setting and strategic planning retreat on February 6, 2024. The Board, consisting of two new members, gathered to start the process of creating new strategic priorities for the County and to collectively determine the direction of the County for 2024 and beyond.

Led by the Virginia Institute of Government facilitator Charles Hargrove, the retreat included an icebreaker by asking elected leadership and staff what was their most favorite place to visit, enjoy or do in Surry County. Responses included: Chippokes State Parks, Just for Kicks, Farmer Joes, Parks and Recreation, school sporting events, the Marina and its scenic views, a ride around Town to see what has changed, Oak Park relaxing scenery and “no place like home”.

Mr. Hargrove presented an overview of the local government structure and trends, the impact of policymaking at the state level on Surry County, the roles and responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors as the policy making authority of the County, and of the County Administrator in setting the direction of the workforce in achieve the strategic initiatives established by the Board. The end goal of the work session and ensuing Board discussions is to craft a two-year action plan inclusive of attainable timeframes and reporting tools on progress. The session included setting operational and capital improvement budget priorities and providing Board direction to the County Administrator for the upcoming budget season.

The following is a high level list of the many topics discussed (no priority order as of the evening of the session):

Town Relationships and Collaboration

Public Relations/Community Engagement

Taxes

Growing Senior Population

Parks and Recreation Facility Enhancements

Tourism and Agri-Tourism

Growing Pains = Operational Changes and Space Needs Assessment

Transportation

Workforce & Education

Investing in the Community

Other Discussion Topics

- Hunting with Rifles
- Lack of Childcare in Surry County
- Addressing the Surry Housing Crisis
- Twice a Year Tax Billing
- Building Community Trust and the Role for Elected Officials
- Utilization of the Economic Development Authority
- Solid Waste sites paving
- Surry Chamber of Commerce Role in Economic Development
- Creating a Business Incubator (300 Home Based Businesses in Surry County)
- Amenities in the Bacon's Castle District (the home of Dominion Energy)
- Citizen led committees
- Solar Restrictions
- Emergency Shelter (Be Prepared Surry)
- Improving Gateway & Aesthetics around the school complex (sidewalks, safety, etc.)
- Summer youth program

The retreat served as a starting point for the Board to begin thinking about and discussing topics and priorities that they would like to implement during their term as Supervisors. The discussions provided a great window into what could be seen over the next four years. Additional work sessions will be scheduled with the goal to prioritize the initiatives discussed.

On February 7th, the facilitator led a discussion with County Leadership Team to discuss the Board of Supervisors priorities and how Administration will work with team leads and staff to execute the elected officials vision and priorities. This session concluded with an engaging County branding exercise, significant to accomplishing established priorities.

Melissa Rollins, County Administrator